

## TIMELINE

- Two bills were proposed in the First Regular Session of the 121st Maine Legislature that addressed vessel discharges (LDs 1158 and 1271).
- Resolve (ch. 79) required the DEP to report back concerning a plan to prohibit or regulate the discharge of blackwater and graywater from vessels into coastal waters, and include any recommended legislation.
- Short stakeholder process was held in the summer of 2003 with members of the regulated community, environmental community, shellfish harvesters, Coast Guard, legislators, EPA, scientists, port representatives, tourist industry, etc.
- **Report: "Discharges from Vessels"** (November 1, 2003).
- **Chapter 650**, An Act to Protect Maine's Coastal Waters (effective July 30, 2004) -- consistency with certain federal standards being implemented in Alaska.

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- Webpage "Ships & Boats": <http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/topic/vessel/index.htm>
- **Draft rule** (7/21/04). Comment deadline (informal) 9/1/04 (being extended).
- Public information meeting (9/1/04)
- Request permission to post the rule to formal comment (11/18/04).
- No hearing is planned (but if one was held it would likely be 1/20/05).
- **Rule adoption** in spring, 2005.
- Following adoption of rule, public notice, and comment period for a general permit.
- **General permit** effective in fall, 2005.
- **Need for authorization to discharge**, under the general permit, begins 1/1/06.

## Other

- Fact sheet on reporting spills
- Forms and supplementary materials
- Coast Guard Memorandum of Agreement
- Agreements with small cruise vessels
- Internal procedures
- Report to Natural Resources Committee on air emissions (1/15/05)
- Report to Natural Resources Committee on small cruise ships (1/1/06)